



### Tree Wave

TREEWAVE.COM

If My Bloody Valentine decided to compose all of their songs on junk-shop '70s and '80s computer gear, they might fit into this act's bizarre universe. Tree Wave actually make their music on those archaic machines, even using a dot matrix printer for percussion. Experimental art isn't just a sidebar for mastermind Paul Slocum (above, with singer Lauren Gray)—he also owns the And/Or Gallery, one of the city's preeminent art spaces.



A gigantic cowboy bar born as Bob Wills Ranch House, **the Longhorn Ballroom** became infamous on January 10, 1978, when it hosted one of the craziest shows the Sex Pistols played during their notorious tour. Sid Vicious' bass wasn't plugged in for most of the set, and an angry punter threw a fish at him for what must be the strangest heckle in rock history.



Nirvana's live shows were usually chaotic, but none were wilder than the October 19, 1991 gig at the now-defunct Trees. Frustrated with the sound, **Kurt Cobain** slammed his guitar into a mixing board. For good measure, he smashed the ruined ax into the head of one of the club's bouncers, leading to a punch-up and an emergency escape in a cab. Search YouTube—the video is usually there.



### The Party

CENTRALBOOKING.BLOGSPOT.COM

Together or apart, the Party—DJs Nature, Select, and Sober—bring exactly what their name promises. Specializing in an unpredictable collision of dancehall, new wave, French disco, hip-hop, and various other strange frequencies, these master turntablists are best seen live, reacting to the shifting moods of the crowd; but the group's latest mix tape, *The Party Vol. 5: Hands Up*, is available as a free download on their site.

### Sean Kirkpatrick

MYSAPCE.COM/SEANKIRKPATRICK

If Nick Cave joined a carnival, he might write music similar to former Spoon bassist Kirkpatrick's darkly elegant yet strangely bouncy fare. The songs revolve around an alternately stomping and soothing piano and Kirkpatrick's sneering voice detailing chemically aided nightmares. He also plays keys for the Paper Chase, a rugged garage-blues band that shares his taste for the macabre.

### PPT

MYSAPCE.COM/PPT3

This trio of rapper/producers Picnic, Pikhasso, and Tahiti pull off what most hip-hop veterans can't: They talk about getting older without sounding like they got boring. Their music falls somewhere between *Stankonia*-era OutKast and post-*Purple Rain* Prince, evenly pleasing the backpacker types and the cats who just want a little heavy funk. They're ballers, too: PPT wrote the official song for the Dallas Mavericks' 2006 playoff run, "Rowdy, Loud and Proud."

### Pleasant Grove

MYSAPCE.COM/PLEASANTGROVETX

Pleasant Grove's Marcus Striplin has the kind of voice that makes you wish he were a simple singer/songwriter, armed with nothing more than a guitar and a stool. But he has the kind of band—equally adept at cacophonous noise and pillow-soft beauty—that makes vocals almost superfluous. Named after a gritty neighborhood in the southeast part of town, the band knows the city well: Three members have worked as bike messengers.

BY ZAC CRAIN

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